

The President's Daily Brief

9 December 1969

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~~Top Secret~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Prime Minister Wilson is being pressured by both major parties to reconsider his policy of supplying arms to Nigeria. (Page 2)

President Balaguer's silence on whether he will seek re-election is making the uncertain political atmosphere in the Dominican Republic even more ticklish. (Page 3)

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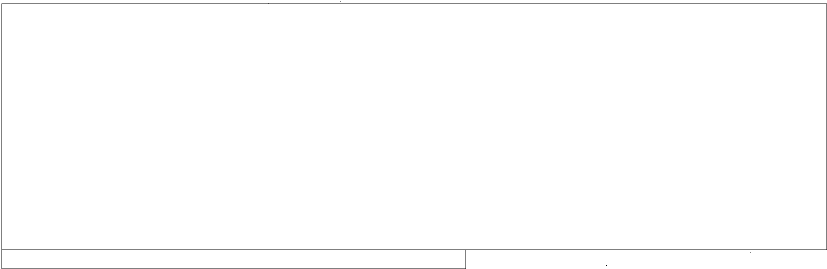
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SOUTH VIETNAM

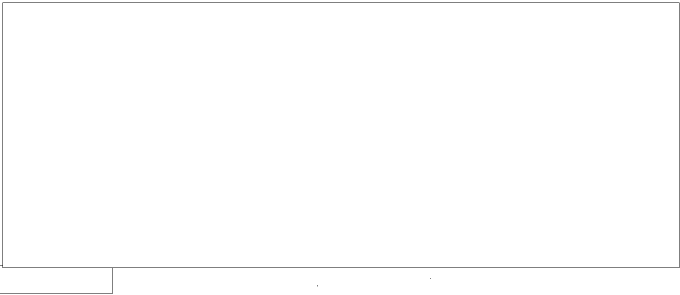


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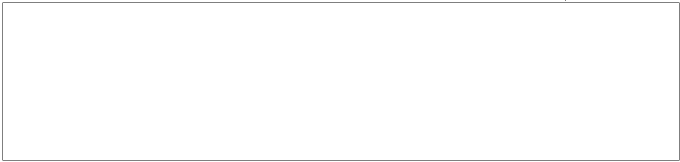
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UNITED KINGDOM

Prime Minister Wilson's policy of supplying arms to Federal forces in Nigeria will come under strong attack from both major parties in parliament today.

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In the past Wilson has parried parliamentary criticism on this issue by arguing that other countries supplying arms to Nigeria would not agree to an arms embargo. The current challenge to Wilson's policy appears more serious, however, and he may try to buy time by offering to discuss the matter with the belligerents or with the various foreign powers supplying arms to Nigeria and Biafra.

British Parliamentary Undersecretary Maurice Foley, who is now in Lagos, may already be exploring these problems with the Nigerians. Foley told our ambassador on 7 December that his visit to Nigeria was a direct result of domestic political pressures, particularly the movement for an arms embargo.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

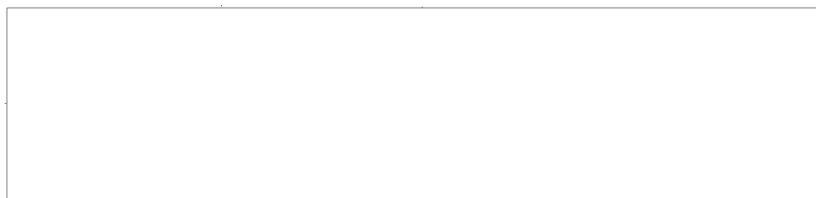
President Balaguer's steadfast refusal to announce whether he will seek re-election next May is contributing to the country's uncertain political atmosphere. Political turmoil persists giving rise to gloomy predictions that violence will intensify as campaigning continues.

Balaguer will find it difficult to maintain political calm regardless of his decision on re-election. If he decides not to run, many military and political leaders now committed to Balaguer's re-election would be inclined to plot a pre-emptive move against the government in order to ensure their own entrenched positions.

If the President decides to run, as seems likely, the announcement of his candidacy could spark a campaign of systematic violence from some factions on the left. A significant portion of the major opposition party has called for violent revolution if Balaguer opts for re-election. The armed forces are already restive because of Communist-sponsored disorders, and a higher level of violence could prompt increased dissatisfaction with Balaguer's leadership.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL



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NOTE

Chile: The jittery Frei government has brought
troop reinforcements into Santiago and intensified
other security precautions

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